



FEMA

MITIGATION DIRECTORATE

Flood Map Modernization

NEW DATA FOR MANAGING RISK

Flood Map Modernization (“Map Mod”) is the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) multi-year effort to update and transform flood maps into more reliable, easy-to-use, and readily available digital products. Map Mod enables communities and citizens across the country to more efficiently obtain flood hazard data, learn about their flood risk, and make informed decisions about development, floodplain management, and mitigation projects.

MAPPING FLOOD RISKS

The first step in preventing and reducing flood loss is to obtain reliable information about flood risk. Flood hazard maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), indicate areas at risk of flooding. However, flood risk changes over time and many maps no longer reflect current risks, due to land development and changes in the environment.

Map Mod is producing more reliable, up-to-date flood data by using the latest mapping technology and delivering it in a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based format. As a result, digital maps can be more accessible and updated easily and at less cost, as flood risks change.

As of January 2008, new flood maps have been produced for jurisdictions representing about 60 percent of the Nation’s population. Maps currently under development represent an additional 50 percent of the population. The goal is to produce new flood maps that cover 92 percent of the Nation’s population.

NEW MAPS MEAN A SAFER PUBLIC

Map Modernization makes flood hazard information available to a wide range of users, including: the public, floodplain managers, developers, and the insurance industry. With the new maps, communities can more efficiently manage flood risks, land use, water resources, disaster mitigation, and disaster recovery operations.

Property owners can more reliably assess their flood risks and make decisions about flood insurance based on those risks.

MAP MODERNIZATION FUNDING PROCESS

Congress appropriated funding to update flood maps across the entire country. FEMA maintains a 5-year planning horizon for Map Mod, anticipating that, during the 5-year period from Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 to FY 2008, Congress will appropriate \$200 million per year. Augmenting the Congressional appropriations are fees from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Through FEMA’s Cooperating Technical Partners initiative, many communities are taking a proactive approach to Map Mod, and are contributing funding or in-kind services.

NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT

FEMA has developed the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP), a 5-year road map for the modernization of the flood hazard maps. Local, State, Regional, and National participants collaborated on the plan, which is updated twice yearly based on feedback from stakeholders. The plan provides a forecast of flood mapping activities and respective funding amounts at the county level. For more details, go to:

http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mh_main.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) – areas along the coast, along rivers, and in other low-lying areas and floodplains – are at the highest risk for flooding, but everyone is at some risk. Current flood maps can be viewed on the FEMA Map Service Center website at: <http://msc.fema.gov>. To speak with a FEMA map specialist, call 1-877-336-2627. To learn more about flood insurance, visit: <http://www.FloodSmart.gov>.



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